operation as on 18.7.98. The details of such companies are as under:—

S. No.	Company	Valid Approvals (No. of Vessels)	Vesels in operation
1.	M/s Port Blair Manish-A Trading Co. Pvt., Ltd., New Delhi.	10	3
2.	M/s Srikumaran Fisheries, Chennai.	4	Nil
3.	M/s Sovin Sea Foods Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.	2	2
4.	M/s Andaman Marine Products Dev. Co., Port Blair.	3	3
5.	M/s Balaji Sea Foods, Visakhapatnam.	2	Nil
6.	M/s Andaman Fishries Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.	3	3
7.	M/s Simla Marine, New Delhi.	1	Nil
8.	M/s A.K. International, New Delhi.	5	1
9.	M/s Moon Marine India, Chennai.	7	7
		37	19

(c) and (d) The particulars of the Indian companies who have applied for import of foreign vessels to operate in deep sea waters are as floows:

1. M/s Target Marine and Engineers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
2. M/s A.K. International, New Delhi.
3. M/s Alps Marine & Finstock Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
4. M/s AKI Marine & Investment Pvt., Ltd., New Delhi.

Since the proposals of the above referred companies are based on deferred payment basis, they have not been agreed to by this Ministry.

Average Rate of Growth of Grain Production

1732. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the five years average annual rate of growth of grain production is down below the annual population growth rate;

(b) if so, the reasons for achieving less than half of its irrigation target; and

(c) the corrective steps proposed to be taken to increase foodgrains production in the country in real terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The average annu-

al growth rate of foodgrains in the Eighth Five Year Plan has been of the order of 2.6% which is higher than that of the natural population growth rate of 1.9%.

(b) The reasons for not achieving the targets for Eighth Five Year Plan are as under:

(i) Physical targets set for the Five Year Plan were not commensurate with financial resources made available in the Plan outlays.

(ii) The funding for the irrigation sector with respect to total State Plan size has steadily been declining from the Fifth Plan onwards. Against the share of irrigation sector as 23.25% in the Fifth Plan and 20.85% in the Sixth, it was 15.00% in the Eighth Plan.

(iii) Consequent to thin spreading of resources, time and cost-over-runs, out of the 158 major and 2267 medium projects spilling over from previous plan into Eighth Plan only 11 major and 34 medium projects are anticipated to have been completed during the Eight Plan.

(c) In order to increase production of various crops, the Government is implementing crop specific centrally sponsored schemes/programmes under which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific high yielding/hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstration on farmers' holdings inculding training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, under the national agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years through adoption of regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Joint Ventures in Deep Sea Fishing

1733. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that joint ventures have been forbidden from deep sea fishing as reported in the Financial Express, of the 10th September, 1996; and

(b) whether that will not leave deep sea fishing to foreign trawles, posing a threat to national security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir. However, a decision has been taken to rescind the New Deep Sea Fishing Policy of 1991 in September, 1996, on the recommendations of the Review Committee and no new permits, extension or renewal of permits have been issued thereafter.

(b) The Coast Guard and Navy are there to safeguard the national security and also illegal fishing by foreign fishing vessels.

फल उत्पादन

1734. **प्रो॰ रामबक्ष सिंह वर्मा:**
श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में सबसे अधिक फल उत्पादन करने वाला राज्य कौन-सा है;

(ख) क्या सरकार अन्य राज्यों में फलों के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए कोई कदम उठा रही है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम पाल): (क) वर्ष 1995-96 के लिए उपलब्ध फल उत्पादन संबंधी नवीनतम आंकड़ों के अनुसार देश में आन्ध्र प्रदेश फल उत्पादन करने वाला सबसे बड़ा राज्य है, जिसका वार्षिक उत्पादन 5.47 मिलियन मीटरी टन था।

(ख) और (ग) देश में सभी राज्यों तथा संघ शासित प्रदेशों को कवर करते हुए, सरकार उष्णकटिबंधी शीतोष्ण एवं शुष्क क्षेत्र में फलों के विकास की केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र की स्कीम क्रियान्वित कर रही है। आठवीं योजना के दौरान स्कीम के लिए 74.30 करोड़ रुपये का परिव्यय था। स्कीम को 25.00 करोड रुपये के परिव्यय से